

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 1-14 and add new claims 15-22 in accordance with the following:

1-14 (cancelled)

15. (new) A socket for an electrical part having terminals, the socket comprising:
a socket body provided with a mount portion to mount the electrical part thereon, the
socket body having a partition wall formed at least partially around the mount portion, the
partition wall having slits,
a plurality of contact pins received in the socket body so as to restrict a downward
movement of the contact pins with respect to the socket body, each of said contact pins having a
springy portion and a movable piece with a movable contact portion connectable to a terminal of
the electrical part so as to establish an electrical connection between the contact pin and the
terminal; and
an operation member provided for the socket body and vertically movable with respect to
the socket body,
each of the slits having a first region with a first width and having a second region with a
second width, the first width being less than the second width;
for each of said contact pins, the springy portion fitting within the second region of the slit
and the movable piece having the movable contact portion fitting within the first region of the slit,
said movable contact portion being contacted to or separated from the terminal of the
electrical part in response to a vertical movement of the operation member,
said springy portion of each contact pin having a width less than the second width.

16. (new) A socket for an electrical part having terminals, the socket comprising:
a socket body provided with a mount portion to mount the electrical part thereon, the
socket body having a partition wall formed at least partially around the mount portion, the
partition wall having slits,
a plurality of contact pins received in the socket body so as to restrict a downward
movement of the contact pins with respect to the socket body, each of said contact pins having a

springy portion and a movable piece with a movable contact portion connectable to a terminal of the electrical part so as to establish an electrical connection between the contact pin and the terminal; and

an operation member provided for the socket body and vertically movable with respect to the socket body,

each of the slits having a first region with a first width and having a second region with a second width, the first width being less than the second width;

for each of said contact pins, the springy portion fitting within the second region of the slit and the movable piece having the movable contact portion fitting within the first region of the slit,

said movable contact portion being contacted to or separated from the terminal of the electrical part in response to a vertical movement of the operation member,

said springy portion of each contact pin having a width less than the second width, and

wherein the terminals of the electrical part each have a width greater than the first width of the slits so as to prevent the terminals of the electrical part from intruding into the slits when the electrical part is mounted on the mount portion.

17. (new) A mounted device comprising:

a socket body provided with a mount portion;

an electrical part mounted on the mount portion of the socket body, the electrical part having terminals;

a plurality of contact pins received in the socket body so as to respectfully contact the terminals of the electrical part; and

an operation member provided for the socket body and vertically movable with respect to the socket body,

each of said contact pins being provided with a movable contact piece contacting the terminal,

said socket body having a partition wall formed at least partially around the mount portion, the partition wall having slits into which said movable contact pieces are respectively inserted,

each said movable contact piece being separated from the respective terminal when the operation member is moved vertically with respect to the socket body, the slits formed in the partition wall having a width less than a width of the terminals of the electrical part so as to prevent the terminals of the electrical part from intruding into the slits.

18. (new) A mounted device according to claim 17, wherein
the contact pins each have an elastically deformable springy portion,
for each contact pin, said movable contact piece has a width less than that of the
elastically deformable springy portion.

19. (new) A mounted device according to claim 17, wherein
the slits each have first region into which the movable contact piece is inserted and have
a second region,
the first region of said slit has a width less than a width of said second region of the slit,
the second regions of the slits transition to the first regions of the slits with a tapered-
shape, and
each said contact pin is tapered so as to be narrower toward the movable contact piece.

20. (new) A mounted device according to claim 19, wherein
the electrical part is mounted above the mount region,
the partition wall extends above and below the mount region,
the first region of the slit extends above the mount region, and
the second region of the slit extends below the mount region.

21. (new) A method of mounting an electrical part having leads, comprising:
moving an operation member in a first direction with respect to a socket body, to thereby
move contact portions of contacts pins away from a mount portion of the socket body, the socket
body having a partition wall at least partially surrounding the mount portion, the partition wall
having slits, the contact portions of the contact pins being inserted into the slits of the partition
wall;

placing the electrical part on the mount portion;
moving the operation member in a second direction with respect to the socket body, to
thereby move the contact portions of the contacts pins into contact with the terminals of the
electrical part; and

preventing the leads of the electrical part from entering the slits in the partition wall by
having the slits in the partition wall be narrower than the leads of the electrical part.

22. (new) A method of mounting an electrical part according to claim 21, wherein
the operation member has a cam,

Serial No. 10/662,947

the contact pins respectively have operation pieces that ride on the cam, and moving the operation member with respect to the socket body causes the operation pieces of the contact pins to move with respect to the cam of the operation member.